

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending and have been examined. Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been rejected. Claim 3 has been objected to. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 5 has been added. Reconsideration of Claims 1-4 and allowance of Claims 1-5 in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Objection to Claim 3

The Examiner states that Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim. The indication of allowability is noted with appreciation.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,897,291, issued to Kim, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,141,871, issued to Shimp et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the oil is present in the composition in an amount from about 2 to about 30 percent by weight based on the total weight of the composition. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the application as originally filed. See, for example, Claim 3. Claims 2 and 4 depend from Claim 1.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest a sealant composition that includes oil in the recited amount. Example 3 of the Kim reference describes a composition that includes 0.1 percent by weight pine oil based on the total weight of the composition. The deficiencies of the teaching of the Kim reference is not cured by the teaching of the Shimp reference. Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, provide any motivation to make, or otherwise render obvious the invention as now claimed, the claimed invention is

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nonobvious and patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of this grounds for rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim 5

Claim 5 has been added. Claim 5 depends from Claim 1 and recites a further component of the composition using in treating the panel. Claim 5 recites that the composition further comprises an alkali borate salt. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the application as originally filed. See, for example, page 9, lines 26-27 and lines 34-35; Example 3, page, 19, lines 13-15; and Example 4, page 22, lines 10-12.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and foregoing remarks, applicants believe that Claims 1-5 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' attorney at 206.695.1755.

Respectfully submitted,

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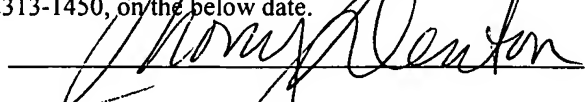
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